

JOE FLOORS WANDERERS

DUBBED "The Battle of the Former Giants," Saturday's Isthmian League encounter had all the ingredients of a fascinating match. But once again, a dry and unpredictable pitch ruined the chances of flowing football.

All in all there were 13 internationals on show, with Enfield's front three of Tony Turley, Ken Gray and John Brooks, who have scored 67 goals between them, facing their England colleagues John Delaney and Derek Gamblin in a Wycombe defence whose defensive record is bettered by only Hendon, Leatherhead and Walton in the league.

To add more intrigue to the encounter, Wanderers had Keith Searle back in their ranks for the first time since he left for Hendon in January.

Enfield, who won the Isthmian championship in 1968, '69 and '70 were in the unusual position of 12th before Saturday's game. But they have been knocking in the goals regularly with no less than five players scoring 15, while as a team only Hendon have scored more.

These were the ingredients for the match at Southbury Road.

But it was only in the second half that the sides came to life when Enfield's attack began to penetrate the Blues rearguard. The scorer on both occasions was Joe Adams, who snapped up his two opportunities well. The man who did most of the damage, however, was Tony Turley.

Turley scored two goals in the 2-2 draw at Loakes Park earlier this term and in front of England boss Charles Hughes, looked the

By STUART EARP; Enfield 2, Wycombe W. 0

outstanding player on the field.

The first half was certainly a disappointment with the pitch dictating events. Much of the play took place in midfield where Wycombe missed the rugged services of Rob Williams under a 14 day suspension.

After ten minutes Alan Gane put Tony Horseman through on the edge of the box but Andy Williams, brother of Wycombe's Rob, rushed out to block Bodger's shot. At the other end, Gray outjumped Derek Gamblin but John Maskell managed to punch the bouncing ball out of danger.

Both sides made the mistake of trying to do too much and many of Wanderers intricate raids were wasted by poor passing. Even the consistent Larry Pritchard had an off day while Paul Birdseye was far too casual.

There was a real slice of luck for the Blues in the last few seconds of the first half. From a corner, Ken Gray back-headed Adams' flag kick to the tall Brooks who cannoned a header onto a post. The ball beat Maskell all the way but rebounded straight back into his arms.

Keith Searle, who had a quiet comeback overall, almost forced Phil Wood into an own goal after five minutes of the new half, the ball rolling just past a post with 'keeper Williams helpless. For a while it looked as though Wanderers, with more height up-front, might get the better of the home side's small defence. But what they lacked in inches, Payne and Betson made up with their constant challenging and mobility. mobility.

Brooks came off with a muscle strain for defender Les Stonebridge after only 12 minutes of the half with Butterfield and Turl moving up to attack and midfield respectively. The switch paid off in the 62nd minute when Butterfield slipped Bullock, took the ball to the by line and passed inside to Gray. He flicked the ball on to Turley whose first shot was blocked, but he recovered in time to push the ball to Adams who lofted the ball into the net from six yards. The goal brought furious protests from John Delaney, who, along with several others, claimed that Adams was off side.

The breakthrough worked wonders for Enfield who began to look increasingly dangerous when in possession. Wanderers kept on plugging away at the home defence but could make little impression although in the 73rd minute they had a golden chance to level the scores.

Alan Gane laid on the opportunity with a low cross to the far post where both Searle and Langfield were unmarked. It was Langfield who brought the ball under control but then sent his shot screaming over the top as the Enfield defence rushed back.

Five minutes later the result was put beyond doubt with Enfield's second goal. Again it was Turley who made the score, beating both Gamblin and Bullock before playing the ball back for Adams to fire home. Wycombe could have few complaints about the goal this time. Both Gamblin and Bullock were at fault in failing to clear the danger.

Only a shocking miss from Butterfield prevented an even more conclusive scoreline two minutes later when he ballooned the ball over the top from five yards with the goal at his mercy.

There was little left for Wycombe. Tony Amos came on for Langfield in the 78th minute but by that time, Enfield were firmly in control.

Enfield: A. Williams; T. Turl, J. Payne, P. Betson, R. Grant, P. Wood, J. Butterfield, J. Adams; J. Brooks (sub L. Stonebridge 67 mins), K. Gray, T. Turley.

Wycombe: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, D. Bullock, J. Delaney, D. Gamblin; P. Birdseye, A. Gane, L. Pritchard; A. Horseman, K. Searle, B. Langfield (sub A. Amos 78 mins).

Referee: D. F. Pond (Essex).
Half time: 0-0 Goalscorers, Enfield - Adams 2 (62, 73).

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hendon	34	29	5	0	79	14	63
Leatherhead	37	21	8	0	66	26	50
Walthamstow A	37	18	12	7	58	39	48
T. & M. Utd.	38	19	9	10	66	35	47
Kingstonian	37	19	8	10	57	44	46
Sutton Utd.	36	18	9	9	60	41	45
Wyc. Wand.	35	20	4	11	51	27	44
Ilford	39	17	9	13	55	55	43
Walt. & Her.	30	17	7	6	36	17	41
Enfield	36	17	7	12	77	45	41
Dulwich H.	37	15	8	14	53	50	38
Woking	36	16	14	52	51	38	
Bishop's S.	29	14	8	7	41	26	36
Hayes	34	14	7	13	50	34	35
Leytonstone	33	12	11	10	42	38	35
Hitchin T.	35	14	5	16	46	66	33
Barking	38	7	7	24	40	75	21
St. Albans	36	5	10	21	33	65	20
Oxford C.	39	6	7	26	29	39	19
Bromley	38	4	9	25	28	63	17
Clapton	36	3	10	23	30	86	16
Cor. Cas.	36	2	6	28	25	96	10

FOR the second week in succession, Marlow Res. playing at home, failed to score in a Middlesex Border League match, drawing 0-0 against Uxbridge Res.



JOHN MASKELL
... punched clear.